



## John Beargrease Rides Again!

*Volunteers needed!*

Howdy Fellow Dog Lovers!

The John Beargrease Dog Sled Race will be coming up at the end of January and will start from Duluth, Minnesota on Jan 30 2011.

This event is run annually and is usually well attended by many of the best dog sled teams in the world. Many of these teams run in the Iditarod Dog Sled race in Alaska and provide some great entertainment for the whole family.

The race starts in Duluth and runs north along a trail that is just off Hwy 61 and has many checkpoints that are on some of the major highways that lead off Hwy 61. From these vantage points, you can close to the action and see the teams run through a checkpoint or along a section of the trail. It is truly a sight to see as man and dogs interact as a team. They work together in a mystical relationship that is as graceful as any ballet. The human element will do whatever it takes to keep his team in good running but never ever compromise the health of his team for a win. The dogs are like a family member, if you don't believe me, just try and step in between them. The dogs in return will run their tails off and if you don't believe that, just be around a checkpoint when the musher hollers, "LET'S RUN GUYS".

I will include a web site( <http://www.beargrease.com/> )that you can check out and see if this something that you might like to get involved in. The teams should be in the Grand Marais area on Monday night and Tuesday during the day. There is a really good site to check out the race activities at Devil Track Landing, just outside of Grand Marais about 7miles up the Gunflint Trail. Lots of parking and a lounge and restaurant for your family to enjoy the race in comfort. This site will give you most of the race info you need.

Hope to see you at the toughest dog sled race in the lower 48

Randy VA3OJ

## Prez Sez

*Our beloved Prez waxes philosophic*

Hello and welcome to 2011.

As the New Year starts out, I hope that this will be a good year for all of you and your families.

I have a personal agenda this year to get back at the cw key and try to improve my second language. I still marvel at the number of hams that use cw and the speed at which they can send and receive and still carry on a verbal conversation with someone in the room. I know that I will be hard pressed to be able to do it. I have good intentions now and hope to be able to keep up with the lofty height at which I have set the bar.

I haven't heard of anyone getting new gear this holiday season. I did manage to get a newer dual band mobile before Dec 25 that I have been trying to figure out. So far, so good I have managed to keep the smoke in it and it still works too!

Many of the club's activities are going to get started soon and I would like to encourage all of our members to join in the fun. It is a good learning experience and great way to get involved in the hobby. I believe the next event is the Sleeping Giant Loppet in March. I have been to this event before and it is great fun and you get to meet and be with some great people. Imagine being in the middle of the wilderness, with deer walking by and the blue sky above and doing something that you truly enjoy. I had the pleasure of working with Karl ve3rrp last year and we had a great time. An APRS station was set up at our location and during the down time at the beginning of the race, a few contacts were made. We invited the rest of the checkpoint crew to come and check out the action. Many were impressed and some thought we were crazy but came around when it was explained and were surprised when we were able to get a great distance out of a simple setup.

So, if you are asked to come out, give it a try. You can join up with people to get your feet wet. You will learn from those that have done it and you will not be turned away. Many times you hear that the checkpoints have been filled and figure that you can't go. Well, that is the

**LARC SENATE**

Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
Pat Doherty VE3PD  
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President**

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**Vice-President**

Bob Hansen VE3RVA 767-6924

**Secretary**

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Treasurer**

Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566

**Directors**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

Doug McCormack VE3EFC

Robert Mazur VA3ROM

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

**ARES District Emergency  
Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

**CANWARN**

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

**Public Service Events**

VA3JMS John 767-3631

**Accredited Examiner**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

flesnick@tbaytel.net

**ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [ve3snw@shaw.ca](mailto:ve3snw@shaw.ca)

**The Sleeping Giant Loppet**

will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011, contact Norm Bell VE3XRC for more info.

**Wanted**

HI-Q  
Articles

Send to  
[Ve3snw@shaw.ca](mailto:Ve3snw@shaw.ca)

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)**pl 100**

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

***Prez Sez Con't.....***

furthest thing because you can come out and play and have some fun and it might just make you get your hand up before the others. I would welcome anyone to come to my checkpoint and join in the event.

Catch you on the air....

Randy VA3OJ

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**Cliff Pratt VA3CLF SK**

**When Cliff Pratt VA3CLF became a silent key, we all lost a good friend...our president would like to say a few words.....**

As many of you know, we lost a member of the radio community late in December. Cliff Pratt passed away at the young age of 45. Cliff was a serving member of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club executive for the last two years. As a member, Cliff was instrumental at getting Signs Now to come on board as a corporate sponsor and help us to display our club to the community via our ARES trailer.

Cliff was a good friend. He truly cared about people. He would go to bat for a cause if he seen any kind of merit in it. He was a husband, father and a true family man. He was a fabricator, builder, and jack of all trades. I witnessed his skills many times as he built things in his back yard. It could have been a garden; it could have been motor, but most recently, his many homemade antennas.

Cliff would often call and ask me questions about radio. I would try to give good advice and he would take the ball and run with it. Then a short while later, another phone call or a knock on the door and he would hand me a finished project that showed great potential. His many antenna projects and true love of building them were a great inspiration to me and others. Many times, I would hear "this damn radio is not working right" and then a trip to his house would usually result. Open the manual to the page in question and hand it to him and he would read his way to eureka. IF you needed a hand, Cliff was one of the first to volunteer his services for whatever project.

Some of you might know that Cliff is an animal lover. His dogs meant the world to him. He once saved a dog that had managed to tangle his lease and had hung himself when it fell off the steps. Cliff performed mouth to snout resuscitation. The dog continues to live to this day.

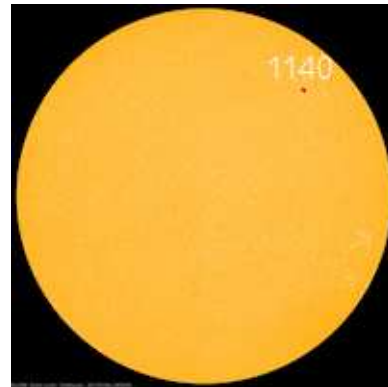
Cliff loved field day and contributed as much as he could. His health was his only limit. He would build and bring things for us to use. His zest for the hobby was contagious and he would try his best to get the contact.

Kathryn and Cole were the center of his universe and they will miss him greatly. The many pictures that I have seen of their lives together show Cliff in the middle of it all as their hero.

My friend, the pain is gone and you are at peace with the world. Thanks for your help and enthusiasm. I hope that I may have helped you the way that you helped so many others. I will add you to my ham halo group that get remembered on the summer solstice annual 360 degree rotor turn.

Cliff, you will be missed.....

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***The Sun Today...***sunspot 1140 shows little activity and sunspot number is 0 and the solar flux is85

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I got a phone call from Brian Nicholls VE3UKX/G8VCO and he and his wife Celeste want to wish all the LARC members and friends a Happy 2011!

**Minutes for the  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
Date: December 9, 2010**

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.  
Treasurer's Report: Joe Coghlan VE3TBX  
The Treasurer's November report was postponed to January's meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:  
Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the November's meeting's minutes as printed in the December HI-Q. Seconded by Cliff Pratt VA3CLF. Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Santa Shuffle

On December 4th the Shuffle had a good turn out with 135-140 participants.

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

No activity

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Tuesday night VHF Net on VE3YQT at 7pm. Everyone invited to check-in.

Even though VE3TBR will be used for public service, in the event of emergency ARES members should monitor VE3YQT as a first choice.

December SET report: Lakehead ARES took part in a local VHF net including a mobile crossband VHF/UHF repeater and a link into the Boundary Waters repeater system. Also active on the IRLP link to the Ontario Net. HF SSB net participation and HF digital. Both VE3ONN and VE3SAO were activated. 50% of the Lakehead ARES membership was involved.

All ARES members are asked to purchase a Yellowish Green vest. They are available from Weber's Supply for about \$39.00. Ask for the "surveyor's vest".

RAC Report Bill Unger VE3XT

Everyone is invited to participate in the RAC winter contest.

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

10 Meter repeater: one transmitter has been acquired and still looking for another. Randy will check into the Upsala repeater situation.

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA

Bob presented the Trailer report to the club.

Annual Dinner Meeting:

Chicago Joe's at the Victoria Inn in April. Confirmed for Thursday April 14th.

Guest Speaker TBA.

New Business

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50/50 Draw: Paul Curtin VA3PDC

Adjournment moved by: Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG

Next Executive Meeting: January 6, 2010

Next LARC Meeting: January 13, 2010.

## **FYBO! And more!**

This is one of those awkward dates to post. We will be having FYBO at the 55+ center on February 5. It will start at ~10AM and go until we get cold. Usually we get cold at noon just in time for home made soup that happens to be ready then.

Everyone is welcome to see Field Day in the winter.

And I suspect you already know this but here is an email from Gary an ex Thunder Bay'er. Would be nice to give him a nice welcome home.

I'm coming up on the 16th....1 night at Tom's in Kam, and two nights at the Crossroads...hope to say hello!....

I've rented a car, and will have 2m in it as well as a HT...

It's been 13 years since my last visit...looking forward to it!"

Bill XT

From Jan

<http://arvideonews.com/>

## North East Ontario Regional Directors Report January 2011



The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on December 16 starting at 2330Z.

The first thing I want to do is to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope 2011 is a good one for you.

Now that all the details have been finalised I can tell you about a new feature coming in February. At the Directors meeting in October we decided to begin an e-newsletter, called "The RAC Report". It will come out in the months between TCA. So you should see the first one in February. To ensure you receive it you may want to check your email on the membership page. Follow this link, log in with your membership number and password and verify your email:

<http://www.rac.ca/en/members/myprofile/>

While you're updating your information at RAC, you may want to verify your address with Industry Canada as well.

Since there is no Southern Ontario Director at present this report is being sent to the Southern Ontario AD's. If you want to be part of the RAC team as a Director please feel free to contact me and we can discuss what the job entails.

One of the themes Stephen, VE3LWX and I will be discussing this year is charitable giving to RAC. I got interested in electronics at 16 because my uncle (VE3DPJ, SK) let me use his rig. That lead me to a career in electronics and finally now I am teaching others electronics and occasionally teach radio classes here. Amateur Radio has defined who I am and determined my career path. If Amateur Radio has had an impact on your life or career why not consider giving back to the hobby you love? A donation to RAC will allow us to carry on mentoring new younger hams and protecting our valuable frequencies. Give it a thought and if you want to discuss it further let either Stephen or myself know.

If you have a business or know some one who may want to advertise on the RAC web site contact the webmaster and he will work with you to set it up. <http://www.rac.ca/en/contact/>

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca).

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario Regional Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

# January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	ARES net on YQT				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 LARC Meeting	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						FYBO Feb 5th



## Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

## Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand - November 4th, 2010 **\$4,798.29**

**Income**

Membership	\$90.00
Interest	\$0.37
50/50 Draws	\$15.50
Sale of Surplus Equipment	\$76.00

Total Income **\$181.87**

**Expenses**

Thunder Bay Telephone	\$48.53
Bank Service Charge	\$0.50
Club Website Fees	\$201.14

Total Expenses **\$250.17**

\* Term Account (For Higher Interest) \$3,000.00

Balance on Hand - December 1st 2010 **\$4,729.99**

Trailer Account	
Previous Balance	\$1,156.91
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Interest	\$0.10
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
	\$0.00
Balance in Trailer Account	\$1,157.01

Joe Coghlan - VE3 TBX

Treasurer

## Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

### Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand - December 1st, 2010 **\$4,729.99**

**Income**

Interest \$0.37

Total Income **\$0.37**

**Expenses**

Thunder Bay Telephone \$48.53

Total Expenses **\$48.53**

\*Term Account (For Higher Interest) \$3,000.00

Balance on Hand - December 31st 2010 **\$4,681.83**

Trailer Account		
	Previous Balance	<b>\$1,157.01</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Interest		<b>\$0.10</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
		<b>\$0.00</b>
	Balance in Trailer Account	<b>\$1,157.11</b>

Joe Coghlan - VE3 TBX

Treasurer